

VERMONT TOBACCO EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD

School and Community Programs Committee

June 29, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Vermont Department of Health
Burlington, VT

MINUTES

Attendees: Rebecca Ryan, Amy Tucker, Rhonda Williams, Amy Brewer, Sarah Wylie, Eoana Sturges

On phone: Cathy Hazlett

Public Comment

none

VDH FY16 budget discussion and recommendations

Amy provided the background of budget reductions leading up to today's discussion. Rhonda shared that there will be a 9% reduction for FY16. Because budget reductions require the VDH to reduce funded community coalitions by one, VDH is interested in determining the criteria for funding community coalitions in order for the VDH to best determine which coalition will no longer be funded. Criteria options include:

- Strategies benefitting low income populations
(looking at multi-unit housing as a measure)
- Success in the policy realm
- Coverage through earned media
- Breadth of partnerships for effectiveness
- Per capita funding
(how much funding a coalition receives relative to the population they reach)
- Performance (adherence to grant criteria)
 - Timely report submissions, minimum of 6 TA calls, minimum of 2 required trainings, earned media with each report, presentation to decision-makers

The committee voted to ask Amy and Cathy to depart the meeting for the purpose of determining criteria that will be used by VDH to determine which coalition will be cut.

Discussion:

- Members are concerned about using earned media as a criteria because there is not enough consistency to use as a comparison. They would prefer to not use that as a criterion.

- In looking at SES, is it possible to use free and reduced lunch eligibility?
- Using multi-unit housing as a proxy for success in low-income populations seems problematic because not all coalitions selected that as an option. Another way to address low SES may be to look at SES within the population served.
- Is it better to look only at criteria that all coalitions have to perform?
- Could local smoking prevalence be a measure?

The committee concluded that the best course of action for VDH to take is to look at grantees that had met this year's requirements and to cut the grantee that had not met the grant's basic requirements and performance measures, as this is the most transparent and fair way to cut funding.

Next school and community programs committee meeting: Tuesday September 8, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm, AHS Mountain View Conference Room, 208 Hurricane Lane, Williston